mission media can take the form of acoustic or light waves, such as those generated during radio wave and infrared data communications.

In the foregoing specification, the embodiments have been described with reference to specific elements thereof. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the embodiments. For example, the reader is to understand that the specific ordering and combination of process actions shown in the process flow diagrams described herein is merely illustrative, and that using different or additional process actions, or a different combination or ordering of process actions can be used to enact the embodiments. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than restrictive sense.

It should also be noted that the present invention may be implemented in a variety of computer systems. The various techniques described herein may be implemented in hardware or software, or a combination of both. Preferably, the techniques are implemented in computer programs executing on programmable computers that each include a processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile and non-volatile memory and/or storage elements), at least one input device, and at least one output device. Program code is applied to data entered using the input device to perform the functions described above and to generate output information. The output information is applied to one or more output devices. Each program is preferably implemented in a high level procedural or object oriented programming language to communicate with a computer system. However, the programs can be implemented in assembly or machine language, if desired. In any case, the language may be a compiled or interpreted language. Each such computer program is preferably stored on a storage medium or device (e.g., ROM or magnetic disk) that is readable by a general or special purpose programmable computer for configuring and operating the computer when the storage medium or device is read by the computer to perform the procedures described above. The system may also be considered to be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, configured with a computer program, where the storage medium so configured causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner. Further, the storage elements of the exemplary computing applications may be relational or sequential (flat file) type computing databases that are capable of storing data in various combinations and configurations.

Although exemplary embodiments of the invention have been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many additional modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the invention. Accordingly, these and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention construed in breadth and scope in accordance with the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A photo album device, comprising:
   two panels each comprising a touchscreen, wherein said two panels are hingeably coupled with one another;
   at least one memory storage device housed within at least one of said panels, said at least one memory storage device being configured to store one or more media files and one or more scrapbook files;
   a microphone coupled with at least one of said two panels and said at least one memory storage device, wherein

audio recorded by said microphone is stored on said at least one memory storage device as one of said one or more media files; and
   a system operable through the touchscreens of said two panels, said system being configured to:
      group said one or more media files into albums on said at least one memory storage device, wherein said system creates default albums based on chronological organization of said one or more media files according to metadata associated with said one or more media files;
      accept instructions from a user to rearrange said one or more media files within or across said albums;
      accept instructions from a user to create and/or edit scrapbook collections stored on said at least one memory storage device, each said scrapbook collection being a visual layout of a subset of said one or more media files and said one or more scrapbook files; and
      begin an audio recording with said microphone when a user touches one of said touchscreens for a predetermined period of time while viewing one of said scrapbook collections, wherein said system associates a resulting audio media file with said scrapbook collection.

2. The photo album device of claim 1, further comprising a data transmission component configured to be in data communication with an external data storage device, wherein said photo album device is configured to backup said albums, said media files and said scrapbook files to said external data storage device.

3. The photo album device of claim 2, wherein said photo album device is configured to store versions of said media files that are optimized for the resolution of said panels' touchscreens on said at least one memory storage device and to backup the original versions of said media files to said external data storage device, and is configured to retrieve said original versions during editing of said media files or said album files.

4. The photo album device of claim 2, wherein said external data storage device is a cloud storage device accessible over the internet.

5. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein each said panel further comprises a corresponding closure device configured to selectively couple with one another to maintain the photo album device in a closed configuration.

6. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein said system is configured to generate new albums by searching for one or more media files that include images of a particular person.

7. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein said system is configured to accept instructions from a user to select and add one or more scrapbook files to one of said albums to create a new scrapbook collection.

8. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein said system is configured to accept instructions from a user to edit one or more media files associated with one of said albums.

9. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein said system is configured to selectively share one or more of said media files with a separate photo album device.

10. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein said system is configured to accept instructions from a user to associate one or more music files with a particular scrapbook collection.

11. The photo album device of claim 1, wherein when said system is configured to play video media files full screen across both of said two panels.

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